

The Subordinate Clause

6c. A **subordinate** (or **dependent**) **clause** does not express a complete thought and cannot stand by itself as a complete sentence.

EXAMPLE ^S [✓] **if wishes were horses**

The meaning of a subordinate clause is complete only when the clause is attached to an independent clause.

EXAMPLE **If wishes were horses**, then beggars would ride.

Sometimes the word that begins the subordinate clause is the subject of the clause.

EXAMPLE ^S [✓] This is a line **that comes from a Mother Goose rhyme**.

EXERCISE A Underline the subordinate clause in each of the following sentences. Then, write S above the subject and V above the verb of each subordinate clause.

Example 1. When my grandmother was young, many children were learning Mother Goose rhymes.

1. England is the country where Mother Goose rhymes originated.
2. The people who composed the rhymes lived hundreds of years ago.
3. These rhymes became popular because they were fun and easy to learn.
4. If a rhyme was especially funny or interesting, children would sing it.
5. One rhyme that children enjoyed was "Baa, Baa Black Sheep."
6. Some people think that this rhyme is actually a protest against taxes.
7. In the rhyme, the three bags of wool that the sheep produces are given away.
8. Since the sheep has only three bags of wool, it is left with nothing.
9. So, "Baa, Baa Black Sheep" may be a rhyme that protests high taxes.
10. Mother Goose rhymes, which are always fun to read, may or may not have political meanings.

EXERCISE B On the line provided, expand each of the following sentences by adding a subordinate clause that begins with the word given in parentheses.

Example 1. (*that*) This is the trophy that our soccer team won.

11. (*if*) On Friday we will go on a picnic _____.
12. (*who*) Do you know _____?
13. (*that*) Is the story _____ true?
14. (*Whenever*) _____, our dogs bark.
15. (*because*) The band canceled its performance _____.